# Tony Blair, Schwarzenegger and the future of climate & tech

Expéditeur : Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (info@institute.global)
À : k.alahassa123@yahoo.fr
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TONY BLAIR INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE

## Hello Nonvikan Karl-Augustt,

Every country faces its own challenges when it comes to climate change, but no country faces them alone. Whether the focus is on resilience, decarbonisation or economic opportunity, global cooperation and local delivery must go hand in hand. In this edition, we explore how leaders can effectively bridge both.

**Coming up:**

- 🌎 Tony Blair and Arnold Schwarzenegger discuss climate change >>
- 🎓 Immigration and the higher-education funding model >>
- ⚡ Exploring the AI and clean-energy twin transitions >>
- 🧠 Tony Blair on how AI will transform government >>
- 🛰️ Using satellite data to shape smart governance in Zanzibar >>

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CLIMATE & ENERGY

## *Terminating Pollution:* Tony Blair and Arnold Schwarzenegger

Tony Blair and Arnold Schwarzenegger joined forces in Vienna to demand serious, cross-party climate action. Watch them discuss the politics of the climate debate and the urgent need for a bipartisan approach to deliver meaningful action.

WATCH NOW

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PUBLIC SERVICES

## Building a *Sustainable Future* for UK Universities

The UK's higher-education sector is under serious financial strain.

Data show that nearly three-quarters (72 per cent) of universities in England could be in deficit by 2025/26. Years of frozen tuition fees and reduced government funding have left institutions increasingly reliant on international students – whose fees now account for almost a fifth of total income.

New TBI analysis shows how crucial this income has become: on average, each UK student is effectively subsidised by £2,588 per year through international students' fees.

But this source of income is under threat. Recent visa restrictions and limits on dependants have already led to falling applications from key international markets such as Nigeria and India. A new government proposal to introduce a levy on international students' fees, announced in May 2025, adds further uncertainty – and is likely to dampen future demand.

Our latest analysis, *Data Decoded: UK Higher Education, Immigration and Financial Sustainability*, uses data insights to shed new light on which institutions are most financially vulnerable to declining international enrolments. It reveals new patterns of exposure – and highlights the growing fragility of the current university funding model.

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CLIMATE & ENERGY

## How AI Can Advance *Energy Resilience and Decarbonisation*

Artificial intelligence is powering a new era, but it is also consuming vast amounts of energy, and fast. The largest data centres already consume as much power as entire towns and demand is only rising.

This has raised alarm over climate impact. But it also presents an immense opportunity.

AI's surging energy needs could be the catalyst that finally unlocks clean-energy investment, drives grid upgrades and accelerates the transition to low-cost, reliable power.

The countries that act quickly and strategically will lead – securing economic advantage, energy resilience and a stronger position in the AI era.

Our new paper sets out a global policy playbook for how governments can harness these twin transitions – treating clean energy and AI not as competing priorities, but as deeply interconnected drivers of national strength.

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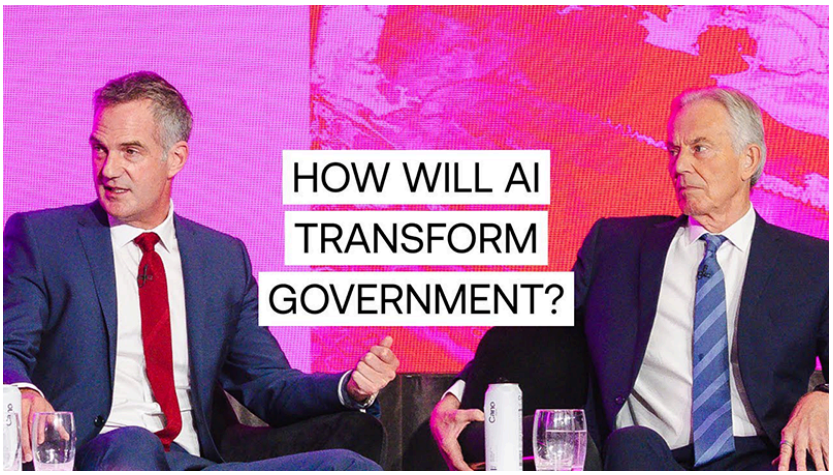


TECH & DIGITALISATION

## Tony Blair on Embracing the 21st-Century *Tech Revolution*

In conversation with UK Secretary of State for Science, Innovation & Technology Peter Kyle at the inaugural SXSW London, TBI Executive Chairman Tony Blair discusses how governments should embrace the 21st-century technological revolution to deliver transformative change for their citizens.

WATCH NOW

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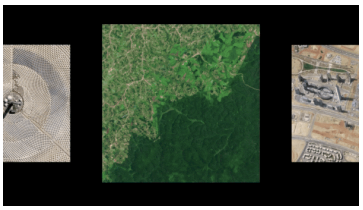

PUBLIC SERVICES

## How *Satellite Data* Is Shaping Smart Governance in Zanzibar

Across Africa, technology is reshaping how governments serve their people. In Zanzibar, a partnership between the Tony Blair Institute and satellite company, Planet, is demonstrating how geospatial data can drive smart, inclusive development.

Over the past year, we've helped embed satellite imagery and geographic information systems (GIS) into government planning. This has included training over 50 officials, tackling issues like coastal erosion, and aligning efforts with Zanzibar's Vision 2050.

This work is already delivering results: monitoring coastal erosion in real time, mapping marine ecosystems, and guiding the placement of schools and clinics in fast-growing areas.

Zanzibar's story is a case study in what digital governance can achieve when driven by local leadership and global collaboration.
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READ THE FULL PAPER

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RELEVANT ARTICLES

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PAPER

### Protecting the Future: An Agenda for Building Climate-Resilient Economies

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### The Climate Paradox: Why We Need to Reset Action on Climate Change

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